

MURLEY'S BRANCH METHODIST CHURCH

AL-II-A-079

Williams Road, Rush  
ca. 1850

The Murley's Branch Methodist Church basically consists of a one story, one bay wide frame structure. The church is believed to have been constructed soon after March 1, 1850, which is the date of purchase of the property by trustees of the church. Methodism was extremely popular in Allegany County and had begun as early as 1791.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Murley's Branch Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Williams Road

CITY, TOWN

Flintstone

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

—YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Murley's Branch Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Murley's Branch Road Rt. 2

CITY, TOWN

Flintstone

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21530

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 5

Folio #: 629

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Murley's Branch Methodist Church is located on the Williams Road near Rush in Allegany County.

The Murley's Branch Methodist Church is a one story, one bay wide frame building that has been covered with novelty siding. The building rests on a low stone foundation. The roof is gabled, covered with tin and has a wide soffit at the gable ends and a ornamental barge board on the main facade. Windows in the structure are double hung, wooden, gothic sash frames with dripstone mouldings and four over four lights. The building has one entrance which is located on the south facade and features the original door with four verticle panels, original hardware and a gothic sash transom light. It is topped by a hood on brackets. The entrance is located in a one bay, gable roofed enclosed entrance porch. Like the roof of the main block, the roof of the entrance porch is gabled, covered with tin and has an ornamental barge board. A small circular ventilator is located in the gable end of the entrance porch. Located in the northwest side of the church is a replaced cement block chimney.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

AL-II-A-079

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1850

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On March 1, 1850, the trustees of the Murley's Branch Methodist Church purchased land from George Slicer.<sup>1</sup> Evidence in deeds for surrounding properties indicate that there may have been an earlier Methodist Church constructed on the same spot.<sup>2</sup> In All probability this earlier building was probably constructed of logs and was meant to be used as a temporary shelter until the congregation had grown sufficiently to warrant the construction of a more permanent building.

Methodism was extremely popular in Allegany County. Missionary activities had begun in the area as early as 1791<sup>3</sup> and by 1870 when the federal census was taken nearly half of the county's 74 churches were Methodist.<sup>4</sup>

1. Allegany County Land Records
2. ibid
3. Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County-A History (Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing, Company, 1976) p. 80
4. ibid

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Stegmaier, Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, West Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson and Joan Baldwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

4/26/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

La Vale

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO: AL-II-A-079

DATE: 4/26/77

5/629

60 Perches

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Murley's Branch Methodist Church

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Willaims Road

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: North

NAME OF OWNER: Murley's Branch Methodist Church

ADDRESS: Murley's Branch Road Rt. 2

Flintstone, Maryland 21530

STORIES: 1(☒) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1(☒) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) 40'x24'

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, <sup>Replaced Novelty</sup> board & batten (type?)  
( ) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
( ) OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( ) /4 Gothic Sash  
pegged( ) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: North  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced( )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN Gothic Sash  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) Barge Boards  
original( ) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original( ) replaced(X)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable(☒)

CHIMNEYS: Number: Brick( ) Stone( ) Corbeled( ) original( ) replaced( )  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: Church  
SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture/Religion  
DATE CONSTRUCTED: Ca. 1850  
CONDITION: Good

March 1, 1850  
Members of Methodist Episcopal Church of U.S.  
Grantor- George Slicer  
Grantee-Simemon Eastman, Mattias Dean, Edward  
Wilson, Henry Elben, James Willison, Ashford  
Wilson-Trustees

FLOOR PLAN:

- ( ) CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- ( ) SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- ( ) IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- ( ) ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- ( ) OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- ( ) DOG-LEG
- ( ) DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- ( ) SPIRAL
- ( ) ROUNDED
- ( ) SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- ( ) PLASTER
- ( ) PANELED: original; replaced
- ( ) BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal

MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush

HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- ( ) PLAIN
- ( ) ARCHITRAVE
- ( ) SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- ( ) FLUTED
- ( ) FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- ( ) ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

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AI-II-A-063

AI-II-A-066

AI-II-A-004

AI-II-A-074

AI-II-A-005

AI-II-A-077

AI-II-A-073

AI-II-A-076

AI-II-A-079

AI-II-A-079

Murley's Branch Methodist Church

Williams Road, Rush

USGS - Flintstone Quad

1:24,000

1974 Revised

660 000 FEET  
(MD.)





AI- 11- A- 079

Murley's Branch Methodist Church

Williamis Road

John E. Nelson

4/26/77

South east



Murley's Branch Methodist Church

Al-11-A-079

Williams Road

John E. Nelson

4/26/77

Northwest



RUSH CHURCH

(MURLEY BRANCH METHODIST CHURCH  
J. H. NEBARKI 7/77

AL-IT A-079

Budnick

MHT